and U.K. held in February, 2000, an agreement has been reached to remove the various restrictions earlier applicable on the exercise of traffic rights by Air India beyond London to USA and Canada. According to the new agreement, Air India is entitled to operate 16 frequencies per week either as transits or terminators to London with beyond 5th freedom rights to USA and Canada.

Concession to Senior Citizens by AI

942. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to allow the senior citizens the concessional air fare in Air India too as in Indian Airlines for their travel abroad on tourist visa; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) All international fares are established only when they are unanimously agreed by all airlines at the Tariff Co-ordination Conferences of International Air Transport Association (IATA) and subsequently approved by all Governments concerned. It is because of lack of agreement amongst airlines that concession in International air fare for senior citizens has not been introduced by any international airline including Air India and Indian Airlines (on international routes). Air India has also competitive market fares for international and domestic travel which are also applicable to the senior citizens.

New International Airport in Mumbai

943. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to build new International Airport at Revas-Mandava near Mumbai in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of implementation of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Committee set up by the Government to examine the need and location of 2nd airport at Mumbai has recently submitted its report to the Government. The report is under examination.

Delay in Operation of IA's Flights

†944. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether adherence to time-schedule of the flights by Indian Airlines is getting declined; if so, the number of flights operated by Indian Airlines during the last financial year and the number of flights which were delayed by more than half an hour out of the above;

(b) whether incidents of delayed flights occur more in certain sectors; if so, what are these sector alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether flights of Indian Airlines get delayed on account of private airlines services also?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The on-time performance of Indian Airlines remained at 65% for the last three years. Out of 91837 flights operated during the financial year 1999-2000, 30615 flights were operated with a delay of 16 minutes or above and 1118 flights got cancelled.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.